

Name _____

Rock Time Travel: How Long Does the Rock Cycle Take?

Short Answer Key

1. Igneous rocks form from cooling magma or lava, and this process takes millions to billions of years.
2. Weathering and erosion, caused by wind, water, and ice, gradually break down rocks into sediments. This process can take tens of thousands to millions of years.
3. Sedimentary rocks are formed as sediments accumulate and compress over millions of years, creating layers.
4. When sedimentary rocks are buried deep within the Earth's crust, they undergo metamorphism due to intense heat and pressure. This process can take tens of millions to hundreds of millions of years.
5. After metamorphism, rocks can restart the rock cycle by melting and becoming magma again. The entire rock cycle is a continuous process that spans billions of years.

